BERNHARD LIVING HISTORY - A PARENT'S GUIDE -



The Bernhard Museum Complex consists of three historic structures on approximately 1.5 acres. The history of the complex mirrors the economic transitions of Placer County. The main building was constructed in 1851 during the California Gold Rush and was operated as an inn. The proprietors, George Bishop and John Long, named it the "Travelers Rest"

The property transitioned from a business to private residence and in 1868 was purchased by Bernhard Bernhard whom the property is named after.

Bernhard emigrated from Germany to Pennsylvania and later moved to St. Louis, Missouri. After hearing of the gold discovery he traveled via the Isthmus of Panama to Placer County in 1852. Like many other gold seekers he turned to a profession other than gold mining. He acquired a teaming business, transporting goods. His wife Rosa joined him in Auburn a few years later.

After purchasing the estate in 1868 Bernhard established himself as a fruit grower. Apples, pears and figs were among the many different fruits grown there. He also utilized an existing vineyard on the property to make wine and brandy. Half of the vineyard produced table grapes. He built a stone wine cellar in 1874 and added a processing building in 1881.

Grandson George Barkhaus, lived in the house until his death in 1956. His brother Benjamin inherited the property and sold what remained of the parcel to the 20th Agricultural District in 1958. In 1973, Placer County negotiated for the Bernhard house as a potential museum site. Local residents raised the funds for the building's restoration, which took 10 years and \$250,000 to complete. The Museum opened to the public in 1982. The present carriage barn was added in the 1990s to house wagons and carriages owned by the Museums and the Native Sons of the Golden West.

The Bernhard Museum is open 11:00-4:00 Tuesday through Sunday. Admission is free.



SUGGESTED DRESS CODE:

Men and Boys: long sleeved cotton shirt, jeans or coveralls, suspenders and a hat

Girls: long sleeved blouse, mid-calf cotton skirt, black tights, apron, and hat/bonnet

Women: long sleeved blouse, long cotton skirt, apron, and a hat

Adults may also wear additional items relating to their chosen occupations

WHERE TO FIND PERIOD ATTIRE

In the past, parents have located appropriate attire from the following resources:

Local thrift shops such as the Goodwill Store and the Salvation Army

Parents from past classes who have participated in Living History

Joyce Silva of the Trumpery: 530-823-0409, Fee \$17.00 per rental, (Located in Auburn)

Diane Wukmir: 916-783-5916, Fee \$5.00 each for the following items: dresses, aprons & bonnets (as a set), the second in Properties)

shoes, male shirts. (Located in Roseville)



PACK AN OLD FASHIONED LUNCH

An authentic 1889 lunch can be fun to prepare. Most children in 1889 brought leftovers to school, such as bread, meat, chicken, fruit (Placer County had a large variety of fruits—pears, plums, apples, cherries, etc.), and cheese. Please wrap the foods in wax paper or a handkerchief. Avoid pre-packaged items. We have seen students bring their lunches in baskets, old coffee cans, and handmade cloth bags. Many teachers and parents get together to provide beverages for the students. Some have purchased root beer in bottles, some bring a large container of lemonade and have the children bring tin cups, and others provide jelly glasses and lemonade.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

May I bring a camera?

Yes, in fact, we strongly encourage bringing a camera. You will have many opportunities to take pictures. We do ask that during activities, you take candid shots rather than posed shots. Asking a student to stop their activity can be disruptive.

May I wear tennis shoes?

We strongly discourage tennis shoes. However, we do suggest wearing old, comfortable shoes such as leather boots. You will be standing all day and new shoes may make you uncomfortable.

Why can't women wear pants?

To make this day as authentic to 1889 as possible we ask that women not wear pants, jeans, or coveralls. Women in Placer County did not wear pants well into the 1900s. If you are uncomfortable in a skirt or dress, we suggest wearing leggings underneath your outfit.

May I bring my cell phone, digital watch, pager, palm pilot, etc.?

Cell phones are not permitted. Please leave cell phones and other electronic devices at home.

What if it is cold?

It can be very cold in the mornings. Please bring a jacket and layer your clothing. Although we like to stay as authentic to 1889 as possible, we want everyone to be comfortable. On rainy days, we move most of the activities indoors.

What time should I arrive?

Please check with your teacher. Plan to arrive 20 minutes before the bus is scheduled to arrive. The day typically begins between 9:30-10:00.

PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITIES

Arrive in 1889 period clothing.

Assist with a particular station, no roaming.

Teach the assigned activity so each child fully participates.

Keep group together and engaged.

Escort group to next activity.

Assist with lunchtime games.

Clean up your activity at the end of the day.

RAINY OR HOT DAY SITE PLAN

As weather in the spring or fall can include high heat to heavy rainstorms, we have set up alternative activity sites in sheltered areas around the museum grounds.

Interfacing with outside visitors and visiting parents-

Only parents in period clothing may stay all day and assist as group leaders.

Museum visitors can observe, but not interact with the children, except during lunch.